Department of Justice

Mission
The Department of Justice is committed to protecting and promoting the rights and safety of all people in Nova Scotia with efficient and responsive justice programs and services.

Mandate
The Department of Justice consists of approximately 1,600 employees (FTEs) and is responsible for the administration of justice and for promoting the safety and security of Nova Scotians through justice-related programs, services and initiatives. To accomplish its mandate, the department provides services through five divisions: Public Safety and Security; Court Services; Correctional Services; Legal Services; and Policy & Information Management.

Vision
Nova Scotia has a people-centred justice system and the safest communities in the country.

Responsibilities
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
Public Safety and Security has responsibility for public safety initiatives in the province, including oversight, governance and advice to police, private security services and firearms license holders, as well as enforcement of community safety processes and security intelligence management services. Divisional responsibilities include:

• administration of the Police Act, including acting in an advisory role to all police services, managing contracts with the RCMP and First Nations Policing, and strengthening policing initiatives through the development of standards, audits and inspections and governance training;
• partnerships with the public safety community and federal/provincial/territorial partners to contribute to and facilitate initiatives to improve public safety;
• liaising with public safety stakeholders and federal/provincial/territorial partners on crime prevention initiatives;
• effective regulation and monitoring of the private security industry pursuant to the *Private Investigators and Private Guards Act*, including the licensing of businesses and individuals engaged in private security services;

• administration of the licensing provisions of the federal *Firearms Act*, including licensing firearms owners/businesses, designation and inspection of firing ranges, and delivering firearms safety courses;

• enforcement of the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, which aims to improve community safety by targeting and, if necessary, shutting down residential and commercial buildings and land that are regularly used for illegal activities such as: producing, selling or using illegal drugs, prostitution, illegal gaming, or the unlawful sale and consumption of alcohol;

• administration of the Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes program;

• administration of the Ceasefire Violence Interruption model;

• administration of the Security Intelligence Management Section through coordination of security and threat assessments on behalf of government;

• administration of service agreements with a network of eight community justice agencies and one tribal organization which offers services for Aboriginal people; and,

• improve the cybersafety of Nova Scotian adults and youth.

COURT SERVICES
Court Services has responsibility for improving access to justice and improving public safety and security through:

**Civil law court services**
Including court administration and management, as well as small claims, other civil law, probate law and bankruptcy law adjudication;

**Criminal law court services**
Including court administration and management, security and transport of prisoners to and from court and criminal law adjudication (Justice of the Peace); and

**Family law court services**
Including court administration and management and family support services and programs such as Administrative Recalculation of Child Support, Interjurisdictional Support Case Management and Support, the Supervised Access and Exchange
Program, the Parent Information Program, Family Assessments, the Family Law Information Program which includes Family Law Information Centres and nsfamilylaw.ca, and Intake and Dispute Resolution Services.

The Court Services Division occupies facilities throughout the province. Full service Justice Centres or stand-alone courts are located in Halifax Regional Municipality, Bridgewater, Yarmouth, Digby, Kentville, Truro, Amherst, Pictou, Antigonish, Port Hawkesbury, Sydney, Windsor, Shelburne and Shubenacadie.

The Court Services Division also manages:

Victim Services
With offices in eight communities, aims to reduce the harmful impact of crime on victims by:

• promoting victims’ rights and interests and advising government on issues relating to victims of crime
• working with justice partners and the community to develop policies and programs that address the needs of crime victims; and
• providing direct services for victims through four core programs: the Provincial Victim Services Program, Criminal Injuries Counselling Program, Victim Impact Statement Program, and Child Victim/Witness Program.

Maintenance Enforcement Program
With an enforcement office, and a Central Enrollment Unit and a Central Payment Processing Unit serving the province, aims to improve access to justice for families by registering, collecting and enforcing court orders or agreements registered with the court for child and spousal support.

Sheriff Services
Sheriff Services is located at all justice centers and courts where they provide court security. In addition, they are responsible for prisoner transportation within the province as well as service and execution of civil documents issued by the courts.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
Correctional Services is responsible for improving public safety and security through effective community and custody-based case management and supervision of remanded persons or sentenced offenders. The Correctional Services Division operates four (4) adult correctional facilities and one (1) youth centre. The key functions of correctional facilities are to provide safe and secure custody and
control of offenders/young persons, and programs that address criminogenic factors, offender risk and needs, to assist with the successful reintegration of offenders/young persons into the community. Successful reintegration efforts include the use of Core Correctional Practices (CCP) whereby case plans are developed to move offenders through the stages of change in order to address their needs, encourage positive behaviour change(s) and lead to a reduction in reoffending and reinvolvement in the criminal justice system.

There are 22 Community Corrections offices in operation throughout the province. The functions of Community Corrections is to provide information to assist the court in the sentencing process(es); administer and supervise community-based sentences of the courts; provide or access programs that address criminogenic factors to assist offenders with pro social behavior in the community, thereby increasing public safety; and provide selected alternative measures (e.g., Restorative Justice, fine options) to assist the criminal justice system, victims, and the community by diverting eligible offences from the court process.

Youth integrated community-based initiatives of Correctional Services include the Halifax Youth Attendance Centre, which provides specific programs and services to youth in the greater Halifax and Annapolis Valley areas as well as similar services in Cape Breton and Colchester/Pictou County. Key functions of integrated community-based initiatives include on-site education opportunities, mental health, addiction services and programs.

LEGAL SERVICES
The Legal Services Division is the government’s law firm, providing a full range of legal advice and services to support government operations and help government achieve its corporate priorities. With a staff of over 160 lawyers, paralegals, researchers and administrative professionals, the Division is one of the largest law offices in the Province and is responsive to its clients’ needs. The Division’s constant interaction with numerous public bodies affords it a unique perspective on government. Operating within government, the Division adds value to the services and advice it provides because it understands the corporate environment in which government operates. The Division collaborates with its clients to deliver services that align with government’s priorities.

The Division has extensive experience with legal issues that uniquely affect the Crown and offers a full range of commercial legal advice. The Division is highly skilled in matters of administrative law – the law that applies to the decisions and actions of
those operating under statutory authority. The advice provided by the Division assists those responsible for the management and operation of government departments and agencies to understand the legal aspects of these roles, and helps them to identify and manage risk. Services provided by the Division include assistance with the negotiation and drafting of agreements, commercial transactions, corporate governance, property transactions, the development of legislation and regulations to implement the public policy goals of government, support in employment and labour matters, and routine day to day advice.

The Division also represents government in legal proceedings, except prosecutions. This includes formal litigation on behalf of the Crown before all levels of courts in the Province, the Federal Courts and the Supreme Court of Canada. Typical cases brought before these courts include judicial review applications, statutory appeals, contractual disputes, constitutional issues, class actions, and child and adult protection proceedings and other claims made by or against government. Beyond the courts, the Division represents government before administrative bodies and tribunals, and in arbitrations and mediations. The Division assists government departments and agencies in navigating the procedural and substantive aspects of these proceedings, and helps them efficiently and effectively resolve disputes.

The Division is also home to the Registry of Regulations. The Registry of Regulations files, consolidates and publishes Nova Scotia regulations. The Registry is responsible for the publication of the Royal Gazette Part I and Part II. The Registry reviews all draft regulations to ensure the regulations meet the required plain language standards, and to ensure that the regulations are consistent in form, style and content with current legislation and regulations.

POLICY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
Policy and Information Management brings together an inter-related group of department functions dedicated to the creation, coordination, analysis, sharing, accuracy, storage, and business use of information. The division's support for Justice includes:

providing department-wide policy formulation, advice, research, strategic planning services; F/P/T relations, managing the department's records management program (central registry); and the department's facility and accommodation requirements.
Acts Administered

Age of Majority Act
Alternative Penalty Act
Apologies Act
Applied Science Technology Act
Apportionment Act
Arbitration Act
Architects Act
Assets Management and Disposition Act
Assignments and Preferences Act
Beneficiaries Designation Act
Bills of Lading Act
Blind Persons’ Rights Act
 Builders’ Lien Act
Canada and United Kingdom Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments Act
Canadian Information Processing Society of Nova Scotia Act
Cape Breton Barristers’ Society Act
Child Abduction Act
Child Pornography Reporting Act
Civil Forfeiture Act
Class Proceedings Act
Collection Act
Commercial Arbitration Act
Commercial Mediation Act
Compensation for Victims of Crime Act
Conflict of Interest Act
Constables’ Protection Act
Constitutional Questions Act
Contributory Negligence Act
Controverted Elections Act
Conveyancing Act
Corporations Miscellaneous Provisions Act
Correctional Services Act
Corrections Act
Costs and Fees Act
Court and Administrative Reform Act
Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act
Court Houses and Lockup Houses Act
Court Jurisdiction and Proceedings Transfer Act
Court Officials Act
Court Security Act
Creditors’ Relief Act
Criminal Notoriety Act
Cross-border Policing Act
Cyber Safety Act
Defamation Act
Demise of the Crown Act
Descent of Property Act
Domestic Violence Intervention Act
Elections Act
Electronic Commerce Act
Enforcement of Canadian Judgments and Decrees Act
Enforcement of Court Orders Act
Engineering Profession Act
Escheats Act
Estate Actions Act
Estreats Act
Evidence Act
Expropriation Act
Family Court Act
Family Orders Information Release Act
Fatal Injuries Act
Fatality Investigations Act
Federal-Provincial Power Act
Flea Markets Regulation Act
Forcible Entry and Detainer Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Geoscience Profession Act
Guardianship Act
Gunshot Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act
House of Assembly Act
Human Rights Act
Incompetent Persons Act
Inebriates’ Guardianship Act
Interest on Judgments Act
Interior Designers Act
Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act
International Commercial Arbitration Act
International Interests in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act
International Sale of Goods Act
International Trusts Act
International Wills Act
Interpretation Act
Interprovincial Subpoena Act
Intestate Succession Act
Judicature Act
Judicial Disqualifications Removal Act
Juries Act
Justices of the Peace Act
Land Actions Venue Act
Law Reform Commission Act
Legal Aid Act
Legal Profession Act
Liberty of the Subject Act
Lieutenant Governor and Great Seal Act
Limitation of Actions Act
Maintenance and Custody Act
Maintenance Enforcement Act
Matrimonial Property Act
Members and Public Employees Disclosure Act
Night Courts Act
Notaries and Commissioners Act
Occupiers’ Liability Act
Ombudsman Act
Overholding Tenants Act
Partition Act
Partnership Act
Payment into Court Act
Personal Directives Act
Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act
Pledging of Service Emblems Act
Police Act
Police and Peace Officers’ Memorial Day Act
Police Services Act
Powers of Attorney Act
Presumption of Death Act
Privacy Review Officer Act
Private Investigators and Private Guards Act
Probate Act
Proceedings Against the Crown Act
Professional Planners Act
Protection of Property Act
Provincial Court Act
Public Inquiries Act
Public Prosecutions Act
Public Subscriptions Act
Public Trustee Act
Purchasing Management Association of Canada Act
Quieting Titles Act
Real Property Act
Reciprocal Enforcement of Custody Orders Act
Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgment Act
Regulations Act
Religious and Charitable Corporations Property Act
Religious Congregations and Societies Act
Remembrance Day Act
Remission of Penalties Act
Retail Business Uniform Closing Day Act
Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act
Sale of Goods Act
Sale of Land under Execution Act
Small Claims Court Act
Solemnization of Marriage Act
Statute of Frauds Act
Statute Revision Act
Storage Warehouse Keepers Act
Summary Proceedings Act
Supreme and Exchequer Courts of Canada
Sureties Act
Survival of Actions Act
Survivorship Act
Tenancies and Distress for Rent Act
Testators’ Family Maintenance Act
Ticket of Leave Act
Time Definition Act
Tortfeasors Act
Trustee Act
Unclaimed Articles Act
Uniform Law Act
Variation of Trusts Act
Vendors and Purchasers Act
Victims’ Rights and Services Act
Warehouse Receipts Act
Warehousemen’s Lien Act
Wills Act
Woodmen’s Lien Act
Workers’ Compensation Act (Part II only)
Youth Justice Act

Administrative update:   November 20, 2017